

Idaho Roadless Rule 36 CFR 294 Subpart C

Questions and Answers for Forests

08/23/2012

General	1
General Authorities	1
Process for Activities in an Idaho Roadless Area	2
Fuel treatment projects in the Backcountry theme	3
Large tree requirements	4
Road construction, reconstruction or maintenance	4
Travel Planning	6
Boundaries	7
Corrections and Modifications.....	7
Land Exchanges	7
Minerals	8
Valid Existing Rights.....	8
Appendix A. Delineation of a Community Protection Zone (CPZ) Under the Idaho Roadless Rule	1
Example of a community protection zone	5

General

What is the Idaho Roadless Rule and where does it apply?

The Idaho Roadless Rule is a federal rule for management of roadless areas in the State of Idaho. The final rule designates 250 Idaho Roadless Areas (IRAs) and establishes five management themes that provide prohibitions with exceptions or conditioned permissions governing road construction, reconstruction, timber cutting, sale and removal, and discretionary mineral development.

What are Idaho's Roadless Areas?

The Idaho Roadless Rule applies to Idaho Roadless Areas designated pursuant to the rule and identified in a set of maps maintained at the WO. See also Boundaries.

What are the five management themes?

The rule classifies Idaho Roadless Areas into six classifications, five of which are governed by the Rule. The Rule applies to lands classified as Wild Land Recreation (WLR), Primitive, Special Areas of Historic and Tribal Significance (SAHTS), Backcountry/Restoration (BCR), General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland (GFRG). Forest Plan Special Areas (FPSA) are to managed in accordance with the applicable forest plan.

General Authorities

Who has authority to make decisions in Idaho Roadless Areas pertaining to timber cutting, sale or removal, road construction and reconstruction and discretionary mineral activities under the Idaho Roadless Rule?

In general the Regional Foresters have reserved the authority for most types of road construction/reconstruction and timber cutting, sale or removal in Idaho Roadless Areas except in some limited situations where the authority has been delegated to Forest Supervisors and District Rangers (see Region 1 and Region 4 Interim Directives FSM 1920 for further guidance).

Governors Roadless Commission

How does the Governor's Roadless Commission work? What is their role?

The Governor of Idaho appointed the Governor's Roadless Rule Implementation Commission. The Commission is tasked with providing recommendations to the Governor to ensure the spirit and intent of the Rule is implemented in the State of Idaho (September 11, 2009 Commission meeting notes). The Forest Service provides information to the committee regarding projects in IRAs. Part of their charter is to facilitate common understanding of the rule. The Commission has requested the agency provide information regarding projects early in the process.

Commission members include: Jim Caswell, Chair (Public at Large); Dale Harris, Vice Chair (Great Burn Study Group), Jim Riley (Riley and Associates), Brad Gilbert (Outdoor Recreation), Alex Erby (Knonkolville Lumber Co), Alan Prouty (JR Simplot Co), Bill Higgins (Idaho Forest Group), Rick Johnson (Idaho Conservation League), Jonathan Oppenheimer (Idaho Conservation League); Scott Stouder (Trout Unlimited), Dan Dinning (Boundary County

Commissioner), Tom Bowman (Blaine County Commissioner), Bob Cope (Salmon County Commissioner), & Patty Perry (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho).

Process for Activities in an Idaho Roadless Area

I am contemplating a project or activity in an Idaho Roadless Area, is there anything special I need to do?

There are several steps to this process.

Step 1. Determine if the proposed action involves timber cutting, sale or removal activity, road construction/reconstruction or discretionary mineral activity.

Step 2. Determine what theme(s) in the Idaho Roadless Rule would be affected.

Step 3. Determine whether or not your activity is consistent with the direction applicable to that theme (§294.23- 294.25). Depending on the project location and the theme the delegations of authority for the project may vary (see FSM 1920 directives).

Step 3. Contact the Idaho Roadless Coordinator¹ early in the process (prior to scoping) for all actions in Idaho Roadless Areas. Let the coordinator know if you think the rule applies or not. If the Coordinator agrees the rule does not apply then the project may go forward. For those actions where the rule does apply, the Idaho Roadless Coordinator will work with you early in the proposal stage to insure the project comports with the Idaho Roadless Rule and meets Regional Forester expectations. This applies to any actions subject to the rule regardless of who is the Responsible Official.

Step 4. Prepare a briefing paper (described below). This applies to all projects/activities subject to the rule.

- What roadless area is the project located in and what theme applies
- Purpose and need for the project (summary)
- Proposed action, including a map
- If road construction/reconstruction is proposed, which provision is being used and rationale for its use?
- If timber cutting, sale or removal is proposed, which provision is being used and rationale for its use?
- If the permissions include conditions for use, such as the retention of large trees, describe how those conditions will be met.

Step 5. The Idaho Roadless Coordinator will determine whether or not the Regional Forester needs to be briefed by the forest, or whether they (the Coordinator-or other Regional Office Staff) will inform the Regional Forester of the action.

¹ Anne Davy has been designated the Idaho Roadless Coordinator for Regions 1 and 4 (as of September 2012).

Step 6. If the Regional Forester (RF) needs to be informed, the objective of the discussion will be whether or not the action may go forward as designed and if additional actions are necessary (such as working with the State of Idaho Implementation Committee, or Regional Office staff). The Coordinator will work with the forest and applicable Regional Office staff on any follow-up actions that are identified.

Step 7. The Regional Forester will be briefed again by the Forest Supervisor for any decision where the RF is the Responsible Official (Appendix A-flowchart). This briefing will be done at least two weeks prior to the needed decision date, unless waved by the RF.

Does timber cutting, sale and removal requirements apply to all actions?

Timber cutting means the cutting of any trees for management purposes. Timber cutting is a broad term and includes timber harvest (removal of commercial products) as well as other actions that result in the cutting of a tree with no removal of commercial product.

Timber cutting, sale, or removal in Idaho Roadless Areas is permitted when incidental to implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by the final rule. Examples of these activities include, but are not limited to, trail construction or maintenance; removal of hazard trees adjacent to forest roads for public health and safety reasons; fire line construction for wildland fire suppression or control of prescribed fire; survey and maintenance of property boundaries; other authorized activities such as ski runs and utility corridors; or for road construction and reconstruction where allowed by the rule.

Contact (call or email) the Idaho Roadless Coordinator for actions that are incidental to ensure we are applying the correct interpretation.

Fuel treatment projects in the Backcountry theme

What is the meaning of the Community Protection Zones on some of the FEIS maps?

The Community Protection Zones (CPZ) in the FEIS and maps were used as an approximation for the geographic area where road construction to facilitate timber cutting, sale or removal could possibly occur. They are based on the projections of communities in 2030 from National Forests on the Edge, PNW-GTR-728, 2007. It is an overestimation of the zone because it uses a 1.5 mile buffer and on the ground conditions will not always indicate this distance is necessary.

CPZ is determined at the project level based on determination of community and the definition of CPZ in the Rule (§294.21).

How do you map a community protection zone?

See Appendix A for detailed instructions.

What is “significant risk” and how should it be determined.

First, to qualify a proposed project must demonstrate that its purpose is to treat hazardous fuels connected to an at-risk community or municipal water supply system. Second, the term significant risk applies to those situations where the history of fire occurrence, and fire hazard and risk, indicated a serious likelihood that a wildland fire disturbance event would present a high risk of threat to an at-risk community or municipal water supply system. The final rule defines fire hazard and risk to mean the fuel conditions on the landscape. Fire occurrence is

defined as the probability of wildfire ignition based on historic fire occurrence records and other information. Under these definitions, this significant risk determination focuses largely on landscape conditions, probability of ignition (serious likelihood), departure from historical fire frequencies, and the severity of the risk of adverse affects (significant) to an at-risk community or municipal water supply system. Much of this pertinent information may be in individual Idaho county CWPPs and these plans should be used where appropriate in determining whether or not a project qualifies under this exception. Responsible officials will give consideration during the public comment process to input from the State's Collaborative Implementation Commission. The Commission's recommendations would be considered along with other public and Tribal comments. The HFRA Interim Field Guide and Cohesive Strategy (2006) provide additional information for determining significant risk.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/hfi/field-guide/>

Cohesive Strategy:

http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/resources/documents/CFTS_03-03-06.pdf

Large tree requirements

For some activities the rule requires that the activity maximize the retention of large trees as appropriate for the forest type to the extent the trees promote fire resilient stands. How do we make this determination?

This language is based on language in the HFRA. The HFRA field guide provides guidance on how to make this determination (see section on Large Tree Retention).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/hfi/field-guide/>

Road construction, reconstruction or maintenance.

What requirements apply to temporary roads?

Where temporary roads are allowed (in some situations in the Backcountry theme and in the GFRG theme) they must be conducted in a way that minimizes effects on surface resources, be consistent with land management plan components as provided for in §294.28(d), and may only be used for the specified purpose(s) §294.23(d)(1).

Specified use:

The specified purpose in the Backcountry theme is limited exclusively to those temporary roads needed for the community protection zone activities pursuant to §294.24(c)(1)(i) (§294.23(b)(2)); or those temporary roads needed to reduce hazardous fuel conditions outside a community protection zone (note other conditions apply) (§294.23(b)(3)).

In the GFRG theme, temporary roads must be specified for a specific purpose (e.g. access to a timber sale, permit area, etc). However note that road construction (including temporary roads) is not permitted to access to mineral leases, except specific known phosphate lease areas on the Caribou portion of Caribou-Targhee National Forest (see 294.25(e)).

Temporary roads are also available for administrative, but not general public, use until decommissioned.

Decommissioning

Temporary roads in **all themes** must be decommissioned upon completion of the project or expiration of the contract or permit, whichever is sooner. A road decommissioning provision will be required in all such contracts or permits and may not be waived. §294.23(d)(2).

There was a desire to provide assurances that if temporary roads were allowed, they would indeed be closed and decommissioned. Therefore, a requirement was added to have a decommissioning provision in the associated contracts or permits. The Regional Foresters are adamant that we keep this commitment to the public!

There is an existing forest road in an Idaho Roadless Area; can I reconstruct it for use in a fuels reduction project?

It depends on the management theme. A forest road is defined at 36 CFR 212.1. The term means a road wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and use of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.

Road reconstruction in the Wild Land Recreation and Primitive themes are prohibited; however, road maintenance is allowed. Reopening a Maintenance Level 1 forest road to Maintenance Level 2 is considered maintenance. Raising a road maintenance level of a Level 2 or higher road to a higher level is considered reconstruction.

In the Backcountry theme a forest road may be reconstructed if it meets the requirements in §294.23(2) or (3).

In the GFRG theme road reconstruction is permitted.

Is a user created route considered a forest road?

No. As defined at 36 CFR 212.1 the term forest road means a road wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and use of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources. A user created route is considered an unauthorized road which is a road or trail that is not a forest road or trail or a temporary road or trail and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas (36 CFR 212.1).

² ***Maintenance level 1*** – Maintenance level 1 is assigned to intermittent service roads when they are closed to vehicular traffic for more than one year. Such roads may be open to and suitable for non-motorized use. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to perpetuate the road and to keep the damage to adjacent resources to an acceptable level, with the emphasis on maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur.

Maintenance level 2 – Maintenance level 2 is assigned to roads open for use by high-clearance vehicles, where passenger car traffic is not a consideration. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Log haul may occur at this level.

Travel Planning

What is the relationship of the Idaho Roadless Rule to Travel Planning?

§ 294.26 Other activities in Idaho Roadless Areas.

(a) Motorized travel. *Nothing in this subpart shall be construed as affecting existing roads or trails in Idaho Roadless Areas. Decisions concerning the future management of existing roads or trails in Idaho Roadless Areas shall be made during the applicable travel management process.*

(c) Motorized equipment and mechanical transport. *Nothing in this subpart shall be construed as affecting the use of motorized equipment and mechanical transport in Idaho Roadless Areas.*

Concerns about access and designations for motorized versus non-motorized recreation were raised in comments; however, the final rule does not provide direction on where and when off-highway vehicle (OHV) use would be permissible and makes clear that travel planning-related actions should be addressed through travel management planning and individual forest plans.

The Idaho Roadless Rule does not affect, nor does it influence whether or not existing system roads should be designated open or restricted.

However, the Regional Foresters have directed that unauthorized roads (such as user created routes) may not be designated as designated roads. Where a trail exists that is intended for use by 4x4 trucks and other high clearance vehicles, use the designation of Special Vehicle Designation and specify “Off Highway Vehicles only” following the definition in 36 CFR 212.1 Forest Plan Special Areas.

Since Forest Plan Special Areas retain Land Management Plan (LMP) direction, can I change the boundary in an LMP revision or amendment?

The Idaho Roadless Rule designated Idaho Roadless Areas. Most of the Forest Plan Special Areas (FPSA) lie wholly or in part within them; therefore the Idaho Roadless Rule FPSAs have been designated (§ 294.29). Changing the boundaries of a FPSA requires a rule modification including public notice and comment (see §294.27 (b)).

Some of the FPSAs were based on information in proposed forest plan revisions. If the proposed revised plan does not want to keep the same boundaries as the Rule, a rule modification must be undertaken prior to the final decision for the plan. Rule modifications are made by the Chief.

Can I change the management direction for a FPSA in a land management plan revision or amendment?

Management direction for FPSAs will be determined through the applicable land management plan. However, if the current special status designations for an area are changed in the future, these lands would be subject to the terms of the rule and a modification would be undertaken.

Note: on the Payette, prescription 4.1a is unique, as this FPSA is based on the master development plan for Brundage Mountain; therefore any future development of Brundage Mountain consistent with the current master development plan in this area would be consistent with the Rule.

Appendix Q identifies the management prescriptions associated with FPSAs at the time the rule was promulgated. These prescriptions identify the current specific direction for these areas and

may be changed in keeping with the purpose of the area. This type of change does not require any modification.

Boundaries

What are Idaho Roadless Areas boundaries based on?

The boundaries were based on the most current inventory provided the roadless team by the forests. The master set will be maintained by the Washington Office, GSTC and are available on the T drive. If you have questions contact Teresa Rhodes, R4

During Forest Plan Revision we have refined several roadless area boundaries, is this considered an Administrative Correction? If so, what is the process for notice and comment under the Chief's authority?

The forests and regions cannot directly change the designated boundaries of Idaho Roadless Areas, through plan revision or otherwise. The Rule provides a process for mapping corrections and modifications; however the authority to make changes is reserved to the Chief and must undergo public comment. Refining a boundary based on improved GPS or GIS information is an example of a correction. Adjustments that re-allocate lands to a different use are modifications. Bear in mind the sensitivity of roadless areas when making this determination. Also remember, that issuance of a revised forest plan does not overrule the designated boundaries set out in the regulation.

Communication with the Idaho Roadless Coordinator and the WO is essential for corrections and modifications since they are all done s under the Chief's authority. Corrections require a 30-day notice and comment period (§294.27 (a)); modifications require a 45 day notice and comment period. If the correction or modification is a change to a roadless area boundary or a theme boundary then the maps maintained by the Chief will need to be adjusted (§294.22(c)).

Corrections and Modifications

Corrections and modifications are under the Chief's authority, what will the field be expected to do in support of a correction of modification to the Rule?

Contact the Idaho Roadless Coordinator to discuss the need for the proposed correction or modification. Prepare a briefing paper that describes the need for the correction or modification, including a map of the proposed change(s). The Idaho Coordinator will coordinate with the State, the Regional Forester, and WO. The appropriate level of NEPA will need to be undertaken including notice and comment, and coordination with the WO is required.

Upon completion of notice, comment, NEPA and publication in the federal register, the modification becomes effective.

Land Exchanges

How are land exchanges affected by this rule?

Land exchanges are allowed. Lands acquired by exchange that are located within areas having an administrative designation established through the land management process shall automatically

become part of the area within which they are located, without further action by the Forest Service, and shall be managed in accordance with the laws, regulations, and land and resource management plan applicable to such an area (36 CFR 254. 3(f)). In the case of Idaho Roadless Areas, lands acquired would automatically become part of the management theme within which they are located. A modification would be done for acquired lands. Notice and comment by the Chief would be required. If lands within Idaho Roadless Areas are disposed, a modification would be done to change the maps. Notice and comment by the Chief would be required. Notice and comment by the Chief could be done at the same time as the comment period for the EA or EIS.

Contact the Idaho Roadless Coordinator for additional direction.

Minerals

How does the Rule affect common variety minerals?

In the Wild Land Recreation, Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance, or Primitive themes the Forest Service will not authorize sale of common variety mineral materials in Idaho Roadless Areas designated as Wild Land Recreation, Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance, or Primitive themes (§294.25(c)(2)). Use of these minerals, incidental other activities such as trail construction would be permitted.

In the Backcountry and GFRG themes common variety minerals will only be made available as incidental to an otherwise permissible activity. For example, gravel may be necessary to reduce the sediment from a road permitted in the Backcountry theme by this rule and could be authorized where an appropriate gravel source is in proximity of the road. This exception is expected to be rarely used, but is important because it allows use of common variety minerals for protection of other resources in IRAs without the increased costs of hauling these materials long distances. It also allows the Agency to use these sources in support of permissible road, trail, or facilities construction or maintenance.

Valid Existing Rights

Does the Rule apply to the 1872 mining law?

The Rule does not regulate mining activities, conducted pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872 (§294.25(b)). This includes road construction and reconstruction.

Does the Rule apply to valid existing rights?

No. The does not revoke, suspend, or modify any permit, contract, or other legal instrument authorizing the occupancy and use of National Forest System land issued prior to October 16, 2008 (§294.28(e)).

Appendix A. Delineation of a Community Protection Zone (CPZ) Under the Idaho Roadless Rule

Introduction

The Idaho Roadless Rule permits temporary road construction, road reconstruction and associated timber cutting, sale, and removal in the Backcountry Restoration theme if the activity is within a community protection zone (CPZ) (36 CFR 294 subpart C §294.23(b)(2) and §294.23(c)(1)(i)).

A CPZ is defined by the rule as an area extending one-half mile from the boundary of an *at-risk community* or an area within one and half miles of the boundary of an at-risk community, where any land:

- 1) has a sustained steep slope that creates the potential for wildfire behavior endangering the at-risk community;
- 2) has a geographic feature that aids in creating an effective fire break, such as a road or ridge top; or
- 3) is in condition class 3 as defined by HFRA.

As defined under section 101 of the HFRA an *at-risk community* means an area:

(a) that is comprised of:

- i. an **interface community** as defined in the notice entitled “Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire” issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with Title IV of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1009) (66 Fed. Reg. 753, January 4, 2001); or
- ii. a **group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure** and services (such as utilities and collectively maintained transportation routes) within or adjacent to Federal land;

(b) in which conditions are conducive to a large-scale wildland fire disturbance event; and

(c) for which a significant threat to human life or property exists as a result of a wildland fire disturbance event.

The purpose of this paper is to outline a process for determining:

- (1) Is there a community? (Step 1);
- (2) Is the community at risk? (Step 2);
- (3) What are the boundaries of the community? (Step 3); and
- (4) What land area falls within the CPZ? (Step 4).

Step 1. Is there a community?

Part A. Is the community identified in the *Federal Register* published August 17, 2001 (66 FR 160 [43384-43434])³ (*Urban Wildland Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire*). This list provides an update to the initial list of urban wildland interface communities in the vicinity of federal lands that are at high risk from wildfire published in the *Federal Register* on January 4, 2001. The list supersedes the list published in the *Federal Register* on January 4, 2001 (66 FR 51) referenced in HFRA. <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/resources/documents/351-358-en.pdf>

If so go to Step 3, if not go to Step 1 Part B.

Part B. Does the community meet the definition of an interface community⁴ or is the community a group of homes and other structures⁵ with basic infrastructure and services (such as utilities and collectively maintained transportation routes) within or adjacent to Federal land?

If so go to Step 2. If not then the CPZ permissions do not apply.

Step 2. Is the community at risk?

If so go to Step 3. If not then the CPZ permissions do not apply.

The community is at-risk when conditions are conducive to a large-scale wildland fire disturbance event; and for which a significant threat to human life or property exists as a result of a wildland fire disturbance event (HFRA Sec 101(B)(C)).

The Idaho Roadless Rule anticipated that information from Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) could provide important information on whether or not a community is at-risk from wildland fire (Idaho Roadless Rule preamble at 73 FR 201 [61466 and 61472]).

The CWPP may identify communities at-risk based on an analysis following the National Association of State Foresters Field Guidance on Identifying and Prioritizing Communities at Risk (June 27, 2003), or during development of their CWPP (HFRA Interim Field Guide). The State Foresters' guide is available at:

<http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/resources/documents/nasffieldguidancecommunities.pdf> . The HFRA Interim Field Guide is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/hfi/field-guide/documents/interim-field-guide.pdf>

³ HFRA references “*Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire*” issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with Title IV of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1009) (66 Fed. Reg. 753, January 4, 2001). However the January *Federal Register* notice was superseded by the *Federal Register* notice dated August 17, 2001 (66 FR 160). The August 2001 notice updates the initial list of communities based on risk factors associated with each community and the identification of Federal lands in the vicinity of the community. The 2001 list refines and narrows the initial list of communities, focusing on those communities at highest risk. Through this process these communities have already been screened to determine if they are an at-risk-community.

⁴ **Interface Community.** The Interface Community exists where structures directly abut wildland fuels. There is a clear line of demarcation between residential, business, and public structures and wildland fuels. Wildland fuels do not generally continue into the developed area. **The development density for an interface community is usually 3 or more structures per acre, with shared municipal services.** Fire protection is generally provided by a local government fire department with the responsibility to protect the structure from both an interior fire and an advancing wildland fire. An alternative definition of the interface community emphasizes a population density of 250 or more people per square mile. (66 FR 3, January 4, 2001 [at 753]).

⁵ A structure is understood to be either a residence or a business facility, including Federal, State, and local government facilities (66 FR 3, January 4, 2001 [at 753]).

Evaluate the CWPP to see if it considered the appropriate information to determine communities at-risk (fire behavior potential, values at risk, and infrastructure (66 FR 3 [at 753])). For example for:

Fire behavior the CWPP should consider the following:

- Proximity of the community to fuels
 - Are continuous fuels in close proximity to structures?
 - Composition of surrounding fuels
 - Are they conducive to crown fires or high intensity surface fires?
 - Are the fuels broken moderate fuels with some ladder fuels?
- Slopes:
 - Are the slopes steep?
 - Are the slopes south aspects?
 - Are there dense fuels, heavy duff, and prevailing wind exposure?
 - Is the composition of surrounding fuels conducive to torching and spotting?

How do the above affect fire-fighting effectiveness?

- History of fire occurrence?
 - Is there a history of large fires and/or high fire occurrence?
 - Is there a history of some large fires and/or moderate fire occurrence?

Values at risk the CWPP should consider the following:

- Density of homes
 - What is the density of homes, businesses and facilities?
 - Are there scattered areas of high-density homes, summer homes, youth camps, or campgrounds that are less than a mile apart?
- Defensible space
 - Is there a lack of defensible space where personnel can safely work to provide protection?
- Other values
 - Is the community watershed for municipal water at high risk of being burned compared to other watersheds in the geographic region?
 - Is there a high potential for economic loss to the community and likely loss of housing units and/or businesses?
 - Are there unique cultural, historic or natural heritage values at risk?
 - Is there a risk of erosion or flooding in the community if the vegetation burns?

Infrastructure the CWPP should consider the following:

- Access
 - Are there narrow dead end roads, steep grades, one way in or out routes?
 - Are there limited access routes, moderate grades?

- Are there multiple entrances and exits that are well equipped for fire trucks, wide loop roads, fire hydrants, open water sources (pools, creeks, lakes)
- Fire-fighting capacity
 - Is there minimal fire-fighting capacity, no fire hydrants, no surface water, no pressure water systems, no emergency operations group, and no evacuation plan?
 - Is there limited water supply and limited fire-fighting capability?

If it did, then go to Step 3; if not complete additional analysis to see if the community is at-risk. If the community is not at-risk then the CPZ permissions do not apply.

Step 3. Determine the boundary of the at-risk community.

Once the boundaries of the at risk community have been delineated go to step 4.

Consider

- Location of existing structures
- Subdivided lots
 - Are the lots sold?
 - Are the lots in the process of being sold?
 - Are the lots for houses?
 - Are there existing structures in the subdivision?
- Permit boundaries
 - Do the permit boundaries correspond to the location of structures?
 - Is there a master development plan that would expand existing structures?

Map the outer boundary of the community based on these considerations.

Step 4. Map the CPZ from the boundary of the at-risk community.

1. **Map the ½ mile zone.** This is the area extending ½ mile from the boundary of the at-risk community.
2. **Map the outer zone.** Map the lands that meet the following criteria from the ½ mile boundary out one additional mile:
 - a. Any land that has a sustained steep slope that creates the potential for wildfire behavior endangering the at-risk community;
 - b. Any land that has a geographic feature that aids in creating an effective fuel break, such as a road or ridge top; or
 - c. Any land in condition class 3⁶

The areas mapped as described in Step 4 become the CPZ (the ½ mile zone and outer zone).

⁶ Condition Class 3 – The term condition class 3, with respect to an area of Federal land, means the condition class description developed by the Rocky Mountain Research Station in the general technical report entitled “Development of Coarse-Scale Spatial Data for Wildland Fire and Fuel Management (RMRS-87), dated April 2000 (including any subsequent revision to the report, under which (A) fire regimes on land have been significantly altered from historical ranges; (B) there exists a high risk of losing key ecosystem components from fire; (C) fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by multiple return intervals, resulting in dramatic changes to – (i) the size, frequency, intensity, or severity of fire; or (ii) landscape patterns; and (D) vegetation attributes have need significantly altered from the historical range of the attributes. (HFRA Sec. 101 (5)).

Example of a community protection zone

